

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 9 were pending.

Claims 1 to 6 and 8 were withdrawn due to the election without traversal.

Claim 7 was allowed.

Claim 9 has now been amended so that it is an independent claim, which includes the features and limitations of the claim that it depended on, namely claim 7. Also because of the changes in claim 9, it no longer depends on claim 8, which has been withdrawn.

The changes in claim 9 should overcome the objection under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 (c) since it is now in independent form and does not depend on a withdrawn claim.

The election of the Group III invention without traversal should not prejudice the filing of divisional applications for the non-elected Groups.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549 4700.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Striker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Attorney for the Applicants

Reg. No. 27,233